

REMARKS

Claims 10-29 remain in this application. Claims 1-9 were previously canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

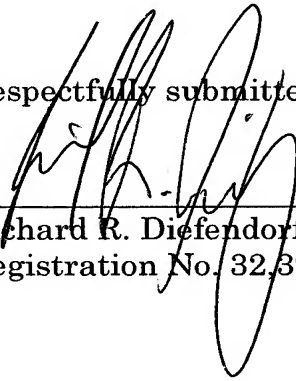
Independent claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), along with dependent claims 11-29, as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,503,303 to Fuesser in view of U.S. Patent 6,881,237 to Storz et al. Reconsideration is requested. Claim 10 above incorporates language directed to features discussed, for example, in paragraphs 0020-0021 of the substitute specification. There is nothing to suggest that the air intake 14 constitutes a porous, flexible gas routing passage that pre-filters gas entering the Fuesser air filter 15 and prevents particles in the gas from entering the gas filter system as claim 10 defines. Figure 2 of the secondary Storz et al. patent relied on shows an air snorkel 20 having an air orifice covered with fabric 8 or a sound element, but nothing in the Storz et al. disclosure suggests modifying the Fuesser air intake so that it constitutes a porous, flexible gas routing passage that pre-filters air or gas entering a gas filter system and prevents particles in the gas from entering the gas filter system as claim 10 defines, and it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 above is patentable over the Fuesser and Storz et al. patents relied on. The rest of the claims in this application are dependent claims, and it is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are patentable as well.

If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #095309.55696US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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